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Action taken on the Excise Committee's Report.

*199 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state when it is proposed to take action on the lines indicated in the Government Order on the Excise Committee's Report?

A.—Action has already been taken.

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"By 'action has already been taken', may I know what was the action taken?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Action was taken, Sir, by referring the question of possible loss of revenue, etc., to the Finance Committee for consideration; but we have not yet received any reply. The question of constituting licensing boards and advisory committees is also under consideration."

Mr. C. GOPALA MENON:—"When was this matter referred to the Finance Committee and has any reply been received as to how the loss of excise revenue should be met, whether by other forms of taxation, or otherwise?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"It was referred to the Finance Committee in October last, and so far we have not received a reply from them."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, as regards the recommendations of the Excise Committee, may I ask the hon. the Minister for Public Health whether the only recommendation in that committee's report was not the re-constitution of these advisory committees and if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government so far, with regard to their very modest proposal of re-constituting the advisory committees and giving them some extra powers, and if no action has so far been taken, why no action has been taken?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"The matter is under consideration."

11-15 a.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, I should like to have some further light, not the stereotyped bureaucratic answer. I am asking whether the hon. Minister after he assumed charge of his portfolio has applied his mind to the matter, and has come to any conclusion with regard to this very modest proposal of giving some extra powers to the local advisory committees and reconstituting them."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"Sir, the question has been referred and no reply has been received."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I know, Sir, whether replies are to be received, from whom and who have been addressed on the matter? I am afraid either I have been obscure this morning or I have not been following the hon. Minister. I am asking the hon. Minister whether he has taken the recommendation of the Excise Advisory Committee into consideration to reconstitute the advisory committees and give them extra powers with regard to the location of shops; if so, what he has done, if not, why not?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"As I said, the matter has been referred to the Commissioner for Excise who has been asked to consult the Collectors and submit a report."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I congratulate the hon. Minister. . . ?"

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" It is not yet time for congratulating the Ministers. The hon. Member will have ample opportunity to do it. He will for the time confine himself to the supplementary question."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" I thought I might do it now, Sir. Nevertheless, may I ask the hon. Minister why on the report of the Excise Committee which examined several witnesses and collected all expert opinions and made a definite proposal which the then Government accepted—I speak subject to correction—my hon. Friend below the gangway will be able to correct me (referring to Sir A. P. Patro)—why the hon. the Minister starts again the whole machinery of circumlocution and sends it back to the Collector and the Excise Commissioner ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" There was no unanimity of opinion in the committee that reported and so, I thought it just as well to get the opinion of the Commissioner and the Collectors on the matter as they were not the persons that were responsible for the passing of the Government Order. "

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the recommendations were sent to the Commissioner and the Collectors for their opinion because the hon. Minister considered them to be revolutionary or because he considered them to be too modest ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I cannot decide it till I get the reports. It may be that I considered the proposals wanting as I may extend the powers of the committee proposed in the Government Order. I cannot decide it till I get the reports."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the hon. Minister has set any time-limit to the reports being sent, or whether they will take their own time which may mean eternity ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" I shall see that the reports are received as soon as possible. "

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I ask the hon. the Minister for Excise whether he can have unanimity at any time on a matter of this kind involving a large amount of finances for the Government and tell him that if he should wait for unanimity he should wait till Domesday ? "

Medical Administration

Establishment of a hospital at Kannamangalam.

*200 Q.—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether the Government intend to establish a hospital at Kannamangalam town or at least a rural dispensary in Kannamangalam ?

A.—Neither course is proposed for the present

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR :—" May I know why neither course is proposed to be adopted ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" We found, on an examination of the finances of the taluk board, that they were not in a flourishing condition and one of the conditions laid down in